

*EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES April 4, 2022.*

*The meeting opened at 5:04 p.m.*

Members present: Pat Konecky (co-chair), Emily Eyre (co-chair), Juliette Haas, Sharon Waskow, Marj Wexler and guest Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen.

Minutes of the March 9, 2022, meeting were accepted unanimously.

Sustainability: Juliette provided 2 updates. 1) The Select Board voted to subsidize the cost of backyard composters (\$25 a unit). This will make Egremont eligible for two additional Recycling Dividends Program points translating into an additional \$700 a year. The composters currently cost \$55, and the shortfall will be taken from the Recycling Dividends Program grant account. Juliette will send a message via various list serves about this new program and will be responsible for collection of funds and distribution. 2) Juliette brought the Mattress Recycling Program to the Select Board and after some discussion, will bring the topic before the Select Board in June, after Town meeting and elections, when schedules are lighter.

Rain Barrel Sale: Emily informed the committee that 18 rain barrels have been ordered by residents to date and stated that she feels confident the committee will reach it's 24 barrel minimum necessary for residents to receive the community discount.

Publications: future pieces discussed were CMRK clothing and textile donation bins at the transfer station, the "Bittersweet Brigade" initiative to reduce invasive plant species from Egremont roadside trees and bushes, extended producer responsibility, and Green Walks. Sharon asked if it is appropriate to recommend specific products in published pieces to which the committee said it is.

Green Walks: topics, dates and times will be planned Emily and Sharon for April and May. (Green Walks are walk and talk events during which participant share their environmental concerns, local observations and personal responses to the climate crisis)

CMRK clothing and textile bin: Marj reported that placing the CMRK clothing and textile bin at the transfer station was approved by the Select Board and will begin in mid April. The committee will need volunteers to box up contents of swap shop periodically and CMRK will take the boxes. The committee will publicize this in the google groups. It was already placed in the Town Newsletter.

Egremont Recycles Day: Marj has begun inviting residents to sign up for the Roadside clean-up and pizza party via the Egremont Post. The event will take place on Saturday April 23, 2022 9:00-2:00 and pizza party held at 6:00 p.m. at the North Egremont Fire House.

Bizalion Barrel: The committee agreed to help Jean-Francois Bizalion upcycle his 60 gallon metal food barrels providing people interested in the barrels contact him directly. We are willing to do the same for others if approached.

Garden Club-Green Committee joint fall event: Sharon shared the idea inviting Desiree Narango, from UMass-Amherst, to speak about the importance of healthy habitat, biodiversity, and native plants. Juliette mentioned a topic including habitat revitalization could be eligible for MVP grant. Funds may be available through the Alford-Egremont Cultural Council.

Invasive plant reduction: The idea of a Bittersweet Brigade was discussed with two possible options being 1) a group of volunteers walking together to bittersweet along Egremont roadsides and 2) Juliette suggested people could also clip bittersweet on their own while taking their usual walks. In this way, it would be much like the Roadside Clean Up. Discussion was also held about a subcommittee walking Egremont roads to determine, in advance, to which roads have the biggest bittersweet problem. Questions that need to be resolved are, what distance from the road defines town property and would we need to get property owners on board. Sharon agreed to work out more details with Abby and Juliette. The motion was made that a bittersweet subcommittee be formed and was passed unanimously.

Mission Statement for website update: Sharon, Pat and Emily have been working on it and are close to finishing the revised mission statement.

*The next meeting will be held on Wednesday May 11, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom*

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Emily Eyre